



Montana's **GDL** Graduated Driver License Law

Effective July 1, 2006

WHO: Anyone under age 18 who has not been issued a driver's license or driving permit before July 1, 2006

STEP ONE – INSTRUCTION PERMIT (Traffic Education Learner's License)

WHEN:

- Starts with traffic education learner's license or permit obtained in a state-approved driver education program as early as age 14 ½ or without driver education, with a learner's license obtained from a driver exam station as early as age 16

HOW LONG: Minimum of six months

CONDITIONS:

- 50 hours of **supervised driving** - 10 hours must be at night
- Supervision to be provided by a licensed parent/guardian or licensed driver age 18 or older authorized by a parent/guardian
- Each occupant must wear a seatbelt
- Remain free from traffic violations and alcohol/drug offenses

STEP TWO – RESTRICTED LICENSE

WHEN:

- Starts with successful completion of Step One - Instruction Permit, and parent/guardian certification of no alcohol/drug or traffic offenses, and 50 hours of supervised driving

HOW LONG: One year

CONDITIONS:

- Each occupant must wear a seatbelt.
- May not drive between 11:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m., some exceptions* may apply
- For the first six months may have only one unrelated passenger under age 18 unless supervised by a licensed driver age 18 or older
- For the second six months may have up to three unrelated passengers under age 18, unless supervised by a licensed driver age 18 or older

Penalty for Step Two Violations

First Offense – not less than 20 hours or more than 60 hours of community service

Second Offense – suspension of driver's license for six months

STEP THREE – FULL PRIVILEGE DRIVER'S LICENSE

WHEN:

- Upon successful completion of Steps One and Two or reach age 18, whichever comes first

*Exceptions to night driving restrictions include emergencies, travel to and from school, church or work and farm related activities

For more information including how GDL applies to motorcycles see the GDL bill at
<http://data.opi.state.mt.us/bills/2005/BillPdf/SB0104.pdf>



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